



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 227

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5117

House of Representatives, March 27, 2008

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through REP. RYAN, K. of the 139th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING HAZARDOUS DUTY RETIREMENT CREDIT
FOR THE DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EMERGENCY
RESPONSE AND SPILL PREVENTION DIVISION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 5-192f of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2008*):

4 (d) "Hazardous duty member" means a member who is a state
5 policeman in the active service of the Division of State Police within
6 the Department of Public Safety, who is engaged in guard or
7 instructional duties at the Connecticut Correctional Institution,
8 Somers, the Connecticut Correctional Institution, Enfield-Medium, the
9 Carl Robinson Correctional Institution, Enfield, the John R. Manson
10 Youth Institution, Cheshire, the Connecticut Correctional Institution,
11 Niantic, the Connecticut Correctional Center, Cheshire or the
12 community correctional centers, who is an employee of the Whiting

13 Forensic Division or its predecessor institutions with direct and
14 substantial patient contact, who is a detective, chief inspector or
15 inspector in the Division of Criminal Justice or chief detective, who is
16 employed as a correctional counselor, correctional counselor
17 supervisor, parole officer or parole supervisor or in a comparable job
18 classification by the Board of Pardons and Paroles, who is the director
19 or assistant director of the Department of Environmental Protection
20 Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Division, or who has been
21 designated as a hazardous duty member pursuant to the terms of a
22 collective bargaining agreement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	5-192f(d)
-----------	------------------------	-----------

LAB *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
State Comptroller – state employees retirement system	Various - Cost	See Below	See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill gives hazardous duty status to two positions within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Under the state employees retirement system (SERS) hazardous duty benefits are more liberal and therefore more costly than normal retirement benefits.

According to the most recent valuation, the SERS normal cost as percent of payroll is 9.46% for Tier II regular employees and 18.03% for Tier II hazardous duty. The annual salaries for these two DEP positions are \$233,000. The normal cost for these positions under regular retirement is currently \$22,000 per year and would be \$42,000 per year under hazardous duty. Including these two positions in hazardous duty results in an increased state pension cost of approximately \$20,000 annually.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5117*****AN ACT CONCERNING HAZARDOUS DUTY RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR THE DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND SPILL PREVENTION DIVISION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill gives hazardous duty status for retirement purposes to a Tier II state employee working as director or assistant director for the Department of Environmental Protection's Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Division.

Under hazardous duty retirement, a Tier II employee can retire with full benefits after 25 years of service regardless of age. Normally a Tier II employee cannot collect full benefits until he or she reaches age 60 with 25 years of vesting service.

Tier IIA employees are not included in statute, but under a collective bargaining agreement, they receive the same benefits as Tier II, except they have to make a greater employee retirement contribution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

BACKGROUND***State Retirement Tiers***

The state has different tiers for its three primary retirement plans:

1. Tier I, employees hired before July 1, 1984,
2. Tier II, employees hired between July 1, 1984 and July 1, 1997,
and

3. Tier IIA, employees hired on or after July 1, 1997.

Related Bill

HB 5107 gives hazardous duty status for retirement purposes to correctional employees who receive unpleasant pay. It was reported out to the floor on March 11.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9 Nay 0 (03/11/2008)